

In the Claims

Amend claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 14 in the manner shown in the following List of Claims. Add new claims 25 and 26 that are in the List of Claims.

List of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended) The method comprising:

providing a substantially planar sheet candy member having an upper side and a lower side;

positioning the lower side of the sheet candy member on a substantially planar support surface;

providing a vacuum carrier having a substantially planar lower carrier surface, a predetermined pattern of openings in the lower carrier surface, and a vacuum chamber above the predetermined pattern of openings;

placing colored candy beads next to each other on a substantially flat support surface;

placing the vacuum carrier over the candy beads with the lower carrier surface directed towards the candy beads;

moving the vacuum carrier downwardly to place the carrier surface adjacent the candy beads;

connecting the vacuum carrier chamber to a vacuum and using the vacuum and the predetermined pattern of holes in the lower carrier surface to pick up a predetermined pattern of the candy beads from the support surface and hold them on the lower carrier surface of the carrier, while leaving the remaining candy beads on the support surface;

positioning the carrier over the sheet candy member and moving the carrier and the predetermined pattern of candy beads relatively towards the sheet candy member to place the pattern of the candy beads on the upper surface of the sheet metal candy member;

releasing the vacuum from the carrier vacuum chamber and removing the carrier away from the sheet candy member; and

leaving the predetermined pattern of candy beads attached to the sheet candy member.

Claim 2 (original) The method of claim 1, comprising applying an edible adhesive to the upper side of the sheet candy member and placing the pattern of candy beads on the upper surface of the sheet candy member.

Claim 3 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pattern of colored candy beads are all the same color.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The method of claim 3, comprising placing additional colored candy beads of a different color next to each other on a substantially flat support surface;

providing a vacuum carrier having a substantial planar lower carrier surface, a second predetermined pattern of openings in the lower carrier surface, and a vacuum chamber above the second predetermined pattern of openings;

placing a the vacuum carrier over the additional candy beads and moving the vacuum carrier adjacent the additional beads;

connecting the vacuum chamber to a vacuum;

using the vacuum and the second predetermined pattern of openings in the low carrier surface to pick up a second predetermined pattern of said additional candy beads and hold such second predetermined pattern of candy beads on the lower carrier surface of the carrier while leaving the remaining candy beads on the support surface;

positioning the carrier over the candy sheet member and moving the carrier and the second predetermined pattern of the additional candy beads downwardly to place

the second predetermined pattern of additional candy beads on the upper surface of the sheet candy member;

releasing the vacuum from the carrier vacuum chamber and removing the carrier away from the sheet candy member; and

leaving the second predetermined pattern of additional candy beads attached to the sheet candy member.

Claim 5 (original) The method of claim 4, comprising providing an edible adhesive on the upper surface of the sheet candy member and placing the first and second predetermined patterns of the additional candy beads on the edible adhesive.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the second predetermined additional color candy beads are all the same color.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The method of claim 4, comprising placing candy beads of a third color next to each other on a substantially flat support surface;

providing a vacuum carrier having a substantially planar lower surface, a third predetermined pattern of openings in the lower carrier surface, and a vacuum chamber above the third predetermined pattern of openings;

placing a the vacuum carrier over the additional candy beads moving and moving the vacuum carrier onto the additional candy beads;

connecting the vacuum chamber to a vacuum;

using the vacuum and the third predetermined pattern of openings in the lower carrier surface to pick up a third predetermined pattern of said third color of candy beads and hold such predetermined pattern of beads on the lower carrier surface of the carrier;

positioning the carrier over the candy sheet member and moving the carrier and the third predetermined pattern of candy beads downwardly to place the third

predetermined pattern of candy beads adjacent the upper surface of the sheet candy member;

releasing the vacuum from the carrier vacuum chamber and removing the carrier away from the sheet candy member; and

leaving the third predetermined pattern of additional candy beads attached to the sheet candy member.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The method of claim 7, comprising providing an edible adhesive on the upper surface of the sheet candy member and placing the first, second and third predetermined patterns of candy beads on the edible adhesive.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the three predetermined pattern of colored candy beads from a cartoon picture.

Claim 10 (original) The method of claim 1, comprising placing the sheet of plastic on the planar support surface;

placing the lower side of the sheet candy member on the sheet plastic; and using a vacuum to connect the sheet candy member and the sheet plastic to the planar support surface.

Claim 11 (original) The method of claim 1, comprising using a fruit flavored candy member.

Claim 12 (original) The method of claim 1, comprising vibrating the substantially flat support surface to cause the colored candy beads to move into close contact with each other on the substantially flat surface, without any of the candy beads being situated on top of other candy beads.

Claim 13 (original) The method of claim 1, comprising positioning a press over the candy beads and using the press to push the candy beads into the sheet candy member.

Claim 14 (currently amended) The method of claim 13, comprising placing additional hard candy beads of a different color next to each other on a substantially flat support surface;

providing a vacuum carrier having a substantially planar lower carrier surface, a second predetermined pattern of openings in the lower carrier surface, and a vacuum chamber above the second predetermined pattern of openings;

placing a the vacuum carrier over the additional candy beads and moving the vacuum carrier adjacent the additional candy beads;

connecting the vacuum chamber to a vacuum;

using the vacuum and the second predetermined pattern of openings in the lower carrier surface to pick up a second predetermined pattern of said additional candy beads and hold such second predetermined pattern of candy beads on the lower carrier surface of the carrier while leaving the remaining candy beads on the support surface;

positioning the carrier over the candy sheet member and moving the carrier and the second predetermined pattern of the additional candy beads downwardly to place the second predetermined pattern of additional candy beads on the upper surface of the sheet candy member;

releasing the vacuum from the carrier vacuum chamber and removing the carrier away from the sheet candy member; and

leaving the second predetermined pattern of additional candy beads attached to the sheet candy member.

Claim 15 (withdrawn) Apparatus for making a candy product comprising a sheet candy member and patterns of different color candy beads on the sheet candy member, together with a sheet candy member forming a picture or a design, said apparatus comprising:

a support for the sheet candy member;  
at least one substantially flat support surface for a two dimensional group of candy beads;  
a vacuum carrier adopted to pick up a particular pattern of the candy beads from the group and hold them on a lower surface of the carrier; and  
said vacuum carrier being in positionable over the sheet candy member on the support surface, and being movable downwardly onto the sheet candy member, and then being movable up away from the sheet candy member when the vacuum is turned off, leaving the candy beads on the upper surface of the sheet candy member.

Claim 16 (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the vacuum carrier comprises a vacuum manifold having a lower wall and openings in the lower wall or communicating a vacuum from the chamber to the candy beads, said openings being in the particular pattern of the candy beads that are picked up from the flat support surface.

Claim 17 (withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the support for the sheet candy member comprises a vacuum holder having a vacuum chamber and a top wall and openings in the top wall communicating the vacuum with a sheet candy member placed on the support.

Claim 18 (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 15, comprising a stencil positionable above the sheet candy member, said stencil including an opening corresponding in shape to the pattern of candy beads that is to be placed on the sheet candy member.

Claim 19 (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 18, comprising a support frame for the stencil and a base for the support, said support frame being pivotally

connected to the base and being pivotally movable from a down position on the sheet candy member that is on the support and an up position in which it extends generally upwardly from the base.

Claim 20 (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 15, comprising a presser positionable for placement on the candy beads and usable for pressing the candy beads into the sheet candy member.

Claim 21 (withdrawn) A candy product comprising a sheet candy member having a upper surface; and

a picture formed on the upper surface by patterns of different colored candy beads that are pressed into the upper surface of the sheet candy member.

Claim 22 (withdrawn) The candy product of claim 21, wherein the sheet candy member is of a first color and the candy beads are formed in plural patterns of plural colors.

Claim 23 (withdrawn) The candy product of claim 21, wherein the sheet candy member has a fruit flavor and is made from a mixture of fruit concentrate and fruit juice cooked with sugar and modified starch and the fruit concentrate is the predominant ingredient.

Claim 24 (withdrawn) The candy product of claim 23, wherein the candy beads are rounded and measure about one sixteen (1/16) to about one eight (1/8) in diameter.

Claim 25 (new) The method of claim 1, comprising providing a vacuum carrier that includes both the first and second predetermined pattern of openings in its lower cover surface, and a first vacuum chamber above the first predetermined pattern of openings and a second vacuum chamber above the predetermined second pattern of openings.

Claim 26 (new) The method of claim 25 comprising providing the third predetermined pattern of openings in the lower carrier surface and the third vacuum chamber above the third predetermined pattern of openings.